

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING  
August 23, 2010

Draft Document – Subject to Commission Approval

The Special Meeting was called to order by Chairman Raber at 7:01 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Office at the East Windsor High School, 76 S. Main Street, East Windsor, CT.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Raber, Balch and Szymanski; Park Director Maltese and Mary Lou Morell from the Park Office.

Also present were Kory Loucks from the Journal Inquirer and Sharon Tripp, Robin Chesky and Christine Dahl from the East Windsor Dog Owner's group.

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Balula and Simpkins.

**GUESTS:** None

**ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:**

A quorum was established as three commission members were present.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** To APPROVE minutes of the June 14, 2010 Regular Meeting as written.

Balch moved/Szymanski seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

**MOTION:** To APPROVE minutes of the July 12, 2010 Regular Meeting as written.

Szymanski moved/Balch seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

**ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

a. BMX Skate Park

No report this evening.

b. Dog Owners' Park

Sharon Tripp addressed the Commission stating that the group does not have enough money in their fund to pay for wood chips after paying for fencing material. She questioned whether the area needed mulch or could it be left with grass? Volunteers have been clearing the site getting it ready for the fence installation. The grass has been cut two or three times this year and the grass is protruding through the other growth. The grass would prevent erosion, shifting of the area and give it a park like quality which would be more aesthetically pleasing. The Town of Wethersfield removed their chips and sodded the area. A Commission questioned about urine burning the grass. The Dog Owners' group stated that would be corrected by increasing the ph by lime applications.

Wood chips would be spread around the trees, fence edging and in high traffic areas. CL & P is donating chips however there is not a sufficient amount to cover the entire dog enclosure area.

If the grass were to remain, the group has volunteers who would oversee the area and mow. The Dog Owners group is asking for a 12 month period to evaluate a grass area rather than chips.

Director Maltese has placed a call with the Town Planner for input on this suggestion. She is not available at this time. Director Maltese stated she has talked with the State of Connecticut Animal Control officer in Hartford who prefers grass to wood chips. A Commissioner questioned whether there have been any discussions with other Towns who have grass in their parks. It was stated that the idea just recently materialized and there was not time to confer prior to this meeting.

A maintenance plan needs to be developed for mowing and string trimming and consideration as to what applications for weed control and fertilization would be permitted in this public area. Consideration for organic applications must be looked at.

Director Maltese will consult with the Town Planner as to this change in ground cover.

c. Review of EWP ball field electric bills

Director Maltese stated that the parks do not generate enough usage to enter the government plan. Ms. MacDonald of the First Selectman's Office is coordinating a grouping with other Departments/Agencies in the Town to see if a second grouping would qualify for the government plan.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Financial Accounts Review

Director Maltese distributed a Preliminary 2010-2011 Budget as of July 27, 2010. She has not been advised that anything is final at this time. The 2009-2010 tax year Accounts will not close until October when the auditors are due in town.

b. Park Director's Report

Director Maltese reported there was a security breach with funds at East Windsor Park this summer. Three days' worth of deposits estimated at \$500-\$700 was stolen. The incident was reported to the Police and all parties necessary. The locks on the East Windsor Park Snack Bar should be changed with non-duplicating key. A Commissioner raised the question whether the locks on the outside bathroom doors need to be changed as well. After discussion it was left that only the snack bar door lock will be changed at this time. A cost estimate was handed out as well as an estimate to change the lock at the snack bar at Warehouse Point Park in the same manner. Both quotes have been submitted to Public Works for their review.

Director Maltese informed the Commission that East Windsor Park closes on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 for swimming. The gates will remain open this weekend and Labor Day weekend for pavilion rentals and picnicking. There will be no swimming as there is no lifeguard staff available. College students have returned to school and high schoolers start athletic practice.

Chairman Raber questioned when the reservoir would be drained. This request will be placed on the Agenda for next month's meeting and the reservoir will not be drained at this time.

Fall Programs: Fall programs have been scheduled and registrations are coming in. The on-line registration with Webster Bank is now available by using a debit account and the \$.50 processing fee is paid by the registrant. We are the first in the state to use this program which will streamline registration and provide a daily log to the department.

Director Maltese reported that East Windsor Parks and Recreation along with the schools have been invited to join an additional free newspaper "The Sports Department" (TSD). An additional separate edition of the paper will include Stafford, East Windsor and Enfield. The next issue is on September 19, 2010. It will contain all good news, articles from Parks and Recreation and the High School, and have the athlete of the month. There will be a link from our web site to theirs and visa versa. There are free lance reporters and EWSports.com will be included. The paper is also looking to join the Chamber of Commerce.

**NEW BUSINESS/c. Park Director's Report (continued):**

**Leagues/Abbe Road Soccer Complex/Broad Brook Pond Park/ Pierce Memorial Park (Windsorville)/ Prospect Hill Park (Warehouse Point)/Warehouse Point (Osborn Field) Park:**

No discussion this evening.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Commissioner Balch raised a concern that the basketball players at the East Windsor Park basketball court are parking their cars up to the border of the court on the grass. Director Maltese stated that new parking rails will be installed around the perimeter of the gravel parking area to stop this practice.

Director Maltese reported that a \$500 donation to the Dog Park was received from the Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trail Club. A contribution of a year's supply of dog food was also presented to the East Windsor K-9 dog program.

Commissioner Szymanski informed the Commission that the signage and mile markers for the walking trail at the East Windsor Middle School will be installed soon. The proofs for the sign are with the sign maker. This ½ mile Trail is 6' wide with a stone dust base and has markers at each 1/10 of a mile. It is open to the public when school is not in session. No dogs are permitted on the Trail. Five exercise stations have been selected and will be installed in the future. The East Windsor Athletic Club is assisted with the help of local organizations and student groups.

Commissioner Szymanski inquired when the meeting will be scheduled to consider the 2010 nominations for the Hall of Fame. Director Maltese stated that nominations are due on September 9, 2010 and she would like to schedule the meeting for Tuesday, September 14, 2010.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

The bills were reviewed and signed by Commissioner Raber.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION: To ADJOURN this meeting at 7:48 p.m.**

**Balch moved/Szymanski seconded/VOTE: In Favor:  
Unanimous**

Respectfully submitted, \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Lou Morell  
Recording Secretary